

Los Angeles County
District Attorney's Office

Identity Theft Resource List

■ **If you are a victim ...** After obtaining a police report from your local law enforcement agency, report your identity theft to the **Federal Trade Commission** at (877) 438-4338 or by visiting their Web site at www.consumer.gov. The Federal Trade Commission keeps a national database of identity theft crimes and works with local law enforcement investigating identity theft scams.

■ Stop mail solicitations of pre-approved credit card applications by removing your name from credit bureau marketing lists. You can also do this at www.optoutprescreen.com or by calling (888) 5OPTOUT. **OptOutPrescreen.com** is the official Consumer Credit Reporting Industry Web site to accept and process requests from consumers to Opt-In or Opt-Out of offers of credit or insurance.

■ The **National Do Not Call Registry** gives you a choice about whether to receive telemarketing calls at home. Most telemarketers should not call your telephone number once it has been on the registry for 31 days. If they do, you can file a complaint at this Web site. Your registration will be effective for five years. To register your home or mobile phone for free, visit <https://www.donotcall.gov/default.aspx> or call (888) 382-1222.

■ Remove your name from telemarketing telephone lists by visiting the **Direct Marketing Association** at www.dmaconsumers.org/cgi/offtelephone. The Direct Marketing Association (DMA) is the largest trade association in the direct marketing field with more than 3,600 member companies.

■ Have your name removed from telemarketing mailing lists by visiting the **Direct Marketing Association** at <http://www.dmaconsumers.org/cgi/offmailinglist>.

■ If your checks are stolen or bank accounts set up fraudulently in your name, ask your bank to report it to **ChexSystems**, a consumer reporting agency that compiles reports on checking accounts. You can also put a security alert on your file by contacting ChexSystems Web site at <https://www.consumerdebit.com/consumerinfo/us/en/chexsystems/index.htm>. Your bank branch should be able to provide you with a fraud affidavit. Put stop payments on any outstanding checks that you are unsure of. Cancel your checking account and other affected accounts and obtain new account numbers. Give the bank a password for your account (not your mother's maiden name, Social Security number, date of birth, sequential numbers, or any other easily guessed words). If you subsequently have trouble opening new bank accounts, contact ChexSystems to correct your file by calling (800) 428-9623 or by going to www.chexhelp.com.



Identity Theft Resource List (continued)

■ You can also report mail fraud to the **U.S. Postal Inspection Service**. If you feel you have been victimized in a fraud scheme that involves the U.S. mail, submit a Mail Fraud Complaint Form to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service by visiting their Web site at <http://www.usps.com/postalinspectors/fraud/welcome.htm>.

■ If your Social Security number has been used fraudulently, report the problem to the **Social Security Administration Fraud Hotline** at (800) 269-0271 or by visiting their Web site at <http://ssa.gov/oig/guidelin.htm>.

■ Finally, review your credit report regularly and check for unfamiliar accounts or charges that may indicate fraud. California law allows you to receive free credit reports annually from the three major credit bureaus – Experian (formerly TRW), Equifax, and Trans Union. You may request your free credit reports at www.annualcreditreports.com or by calling (877) 322-8228. **AnnualCreditReport.com** is a centralized service for consumers to request annual credit reports created by the three nationwide consumer credit reporting companies, Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion.